

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE S.A., U.S. AND U.K. GOVERNMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

02 April 2001

MEDIA ADVISORY

INTERNATIONALS SUPPORT SA's FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

U.K. and U.S. join S.A. National Director of Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development, Magistrates' Commission and Justice College to launch a new initiative for magistrates and prosecutors.

WHAT: The National Director of Public Prosecutions, Bulelani Ngcuka; Director General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Vusi Pikoli, and Judge Annemarie de Vos (representing Judge Ngope, Chairperson of the Magistrates' Commission) will launch a new initiative of intensive training for magistrates and prosecutors who try 95 percent SA's criminal cases. This program is jointly supported by the U.K. and U.S. governments to the total tune of R2,8 million. The U.K. and U.S. governments will be represented by the British High Commissioner Ann Grant and U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Delano E. Lewis respectively.

WHERE: Justice College, Room A1
332 Proes Street (between Prinsloo and van der Walt), Pretoria

WHEN: Tuesday, 03 April 2001
10h00 for 10h30

SUMMARY: A study by the Justice College and the NDPP in 1998 revealed that more than 1000 prosecutors and magistrates in South Africa had not received any formal training. A new training initiative has been designed to correct this problem in what the Chief Director of the Justice College describes as "the most important and effective training program the Justice College has undertaken in its history." Justice College Chief Director, Cecille van Riet, estimates the training program will produce "a substantial increase in service and professionalism by prosecutors and magistrates."

Fifteen of SA's most experienced magistrates and prosecutors have been recruited to provide peer training to prosecutors and magistrates serving in the country's most rural provinces. These senior experts will provide "on the job" training in areas such as: court and case flow management, plea bargaining, trial advocacy and relevant new legislation. Four prosecutors and four magistrates will then be deployed to the country's most under-served areas. The remaining seven prosecutors will remain in Gauteng and be deployed to "hotspots" around the country as and when the need arises.

An induction course will bring the trainees up to speed on recent legislation and new procedures. The following areas will be visited by training teams: Umtata (Eastern Cape), Mmabatho (Northwest Province), Port Shepstone (KZN), Middelburg (Mpumalanga), Thohoyandou (Northern Province) and Bloemfontein (Free State).

ALL MEDIA WELCOME

ARRIVAL TIME: 10h00 for 10h30

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